

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed 03/08/2005. In the Office Action, claim 2 was objected to because of an informality and claims 1, 9, 10 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the amendments and the remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 5, 7-10, 20, and 22-23 by this response. Applicant has added new dependent claims 34-39. Claims 1 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 2-20 and 22-39 are now pending. Of those pending, claims 2, 5, 7, 11, 16, 22, and 24 are now independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response

I) ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 11-20 and 24-33 are indicated as being allowed in the Office Action. [Office Action, page 3, line 9]. Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for such indication.

II) CLAIM OBJECTION - INFORMALITY

Claim 2 was objected to for being informal and using the words "may be" in the claim. As suggested by the Office Action, Applicant has replaced "may be" with --is-- to clarify the claim language.

Applicant believes the amendment to claim 2 now makes this objection moot and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Applicant has further searched the claim listing and found the use of "may be" in claims 8, 20, and 23. Applicant has similarly amended these claims to avoid any further objections.

III) CLAIM OBJECTIONS - DEPENDENCY

Claims 2-8 and 22-23 were indicated as being allowable but objected for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action indicated therein that the claims would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

[Office Action, page 3, lines 10-12]

Applicant has amended claims 2, 5, 7; and 22 into independent form including limitations from the rejected base claims, independent claims 1 and 21 respectively. There is no intervening claim. Dependent claims 3-4; 6; 8; and 23 now directly or indirectly depend from independent claims 2, 5, 7, and 22, respectively.

Applicant believes the amendments to claims 2, 5, 7, and 22 places claims 2-8 and 22-23 in condition for allowance such that this objection is now moot. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this objection to claims 2-8 and 22-23.

IV) Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, claims 1, 9, 10 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent

issued to Leseca ("Leseca"). [Office Action, page 2, lines 11-12]. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 21, the Office Action alleges that "Leseca discloses, in Fig. 3, an integrated circuit to interface to memory (144), the integrated circuit comprising:

a first off-chip driver calibration terminal (130) to couple to an external pull-up resistor (R above 126);

a second off chip driver calibration terminal (133) to a first switch couple to an external pull-down resistor (R below 129);

a first switch (135) coupled between the first off chip driver calibration terminal and a voltage reference node (VREF); and

a second switch (138) coupled between the second off chip driver calibration terminal and the voltage reference node."

[Office Action, page 2, lines 13-22]. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that Leseca's pad 130 does not disclose Applicant's "first off chip driver calibration terminal to couple to an external pull-up resistor" and Leseca's pad 133 does not disclose Applicant's "second off chip driver calibration terminal to couple to an external pull-down resistor" as is recited in Applicant's independent claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that Leseca's pads 130,133 are not used for calibration.

Leseca discloses a "Flash analog-to-digital converter 119 also includes an off-chip seven tap resistor string 125. Each respective tap 126-129 of the resistor string 125 is coupled to a corresponding one of pads 130-133." [Leseca, Col. 5, lines 15-

18]. "The pad of each of these seven interface cells is coupled to a corresponding one of seven taps on the resistor string. Accordingly, the comparator of each of the seven interface cells 102-105 compares the voltage on a corresponding tap of the resistor string to the analog signal VIN 118 on reference conductor 121 and outputs a digital logic signal to an encoder 134." [Lesea, col. 5, lines 22-28].

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that Lesea's transistors 135 and 138 are not coupled to Lesea's voltage reference (VREF) 111.

In Lesea's FIG. 3, "there are two banks of interface cells. The comparators of the first bank are coupled to first reference voltage conductor 111 that carries the reference voltage VREF." [Lesea, col. 5, lines 6-9]. "Interface cell 101 is an interface cell in the first bank. Interface cells 102-106 are interface cells in the second bank." [Lesea, col. 5, lines 12-14]. In Lesea's FIG. 3, "the comparators of the second bank are coupled to the second reference voltage conductor 121 that carries the analog input voltage VIN 118." [Lesea, col. 5, lines 9-11]. As is illustrated in Lesea's FIG. 3, Lesea's transistors 135,138 are in the second bank and couple to Lesea's conductor 121 that carries the analog input voltage VIN 118 and not Lesea's VREF.

However in order to bring prosecution to a close in the present application on the allowed and allowable claims, Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 21 without prejudice, and amended claims 9-10 to be dependent from allowable independent claim 2.

In view of the cancellation of the rejected claims 1 and 21 and the amendment of claims 9-10, Applicant believes that this

35 USC 102(b) claim rejection is now moot and respectfully request its withdrawal.

V) NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new dependent claims 34-39.

New dependent claims 34-35 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 5.

New dependent claims 36-38 depend directly from independent claim 7.

New dependent claim 39 depends indirectly from independent claim 22.

Applicant believes that it has placed independent claims 5, 7, and 22 in condition for allowance such that dependent claims depending there from with further limitations are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that new dependent claims 34-39 are also in condition for allowance.

VI) OTHER CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicant has further amended dependent claim 23 to remove the acronym "DDR" modifying "memory device". Applicant has moved this limitation into new dependent claim 39 and expanded the acronym "DDR" to clarify the limitation as being a "double data rate memory device".

As claim 23 depends from independent claim 22 that is now in condition for allowance, dependent claim 23 with further limitations is still in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

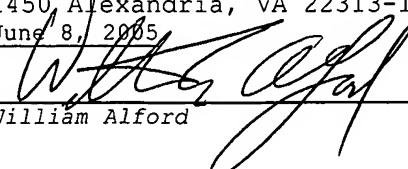
Respectfully submitted,  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: June 8, 2005

  
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6/8/05  
Date